

When "Church" Gets in the Way of the Church

Everyone has that roll of tape or piece of sticky tack or lint roller that has been sitting in a drawer, collecting every particle of dust, paper clip, shred of paper, and little pieces of plastic that broke off other things on its surface. It gets so weighted down that its ability to do its intended job is severely restricted.

When an institution has been around for awhile, it picks up a lot of extra bits and pieces that are glommed on over time. After 2,000 years, the church has picked up a *lot* of extra baggage. Our expectations for how church will be, what services "have to" exist, the function of certain spaces, and a thousand other variables come into play. "Church" has so many moving parts, so many different versions of the "right way" that it is difficult to cut through everything and get to the core mission of the church.

In Colossians 1:15–23, the apostle Paul reduces the Church to its most basic concepts:

- ◆ Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the Sovereign of all creation (vv 15–17).
- ◆ The Church is his body, of which he is the head, so He is preeminent (v 18).
- ◆ Everything about us is brought to its full reconciliation and peace in Him (vv 19–20).
- ◆ He is at work in all of us to make us holy and faithful (vv 21–23).
- ◆ And all of this is so we can clearly, directly proclaim the Gospel to all of creation (v 23).

Seems pretty clear, doesn't it? Anything that gets in the way of Jesus being manifest in us, even "church as usual," is detrimental to the mission and nature of the church.

Financial Summary

2023 Budget	\$224,885	Budget to Date	\$99,475
Weekly Budget	\$4,325	Giving to Date	\$104,792

Thank you again to all for your generous stewardship. You can give via the offering box in the back of the sanctuary, via mail, or online at bedfordroad.org/giving.



*Creating environments where people
encounter Jesus and journey together*

Today's Worship

"Lord, Reign in Me"

© 1998, Brenton Brown, CCLI #2490706

"Christ Be Magnified"

© 2019, Cody Carnes, Cory Asbury, and Ethan Hulse, CCLI# 7139866

- Lord's Table -

"Doxology"

"Come Lift Up Your Sorrows"

© 2005, Michael Card and Vance Taylor, CCLI# 4991430

"Satisfied in You (Psalm 42)"

© 2012, Brian Eichelberger, CCLI #7008238

- Exploring the Scriptures Together -

Upcoming Events

Bible Study Update

Our small group Bible studies are now on their summer hiatus.

June

- 17 Men's Breakfast at Bethany Chapel, 10am
- 18 Father's Day
- 25 Barbecue Lunch after worship

July

- 1 Southern NH Rescue Mission
- 4 Independence Day
- 9 Kids' Ministry Volunteer Training, after worship [Tentative]

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The Apocalypse in 2,000 Words or Less

The Big Idea:

Nursery is provided 9:30-11:30am for children ages 0-3.
 Our children's ministry (God's Backyard) is on a summer hiatus.
 We will be doing a "soft opening" of the updated program in August,
 with the full program returning on September 10.